# Bioassessment in the San Francisco Bay Area

Matt Cover, Steve Moore, Karen Taberski Surface Waters Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board

## Bioassessment in Region 2

- 1. Overview of Activities
- 2. Analytical Methods
- 3. Findings
  - Land Use
  - Natural Variation
- 4. IBI Development

#### SWAMP Watershed Sampling Design

- Rotating watersheds
- Monitoring to answer questions of water quality impact:
  - Land and water use
  - Beneficial uses
- Sampling at confluences
- "Tier 1" Benthic Sampling



## Bay Area Partners

#### Stormwater Pollution Prevention Agencies

- Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program
- Contra Costa County Clean Water Program
- Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program
- San Mateo Countywide Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program
- · Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program
- Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District

#### Land Management Agencies

- National Park Service
- San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
- East Bay Regional Park District

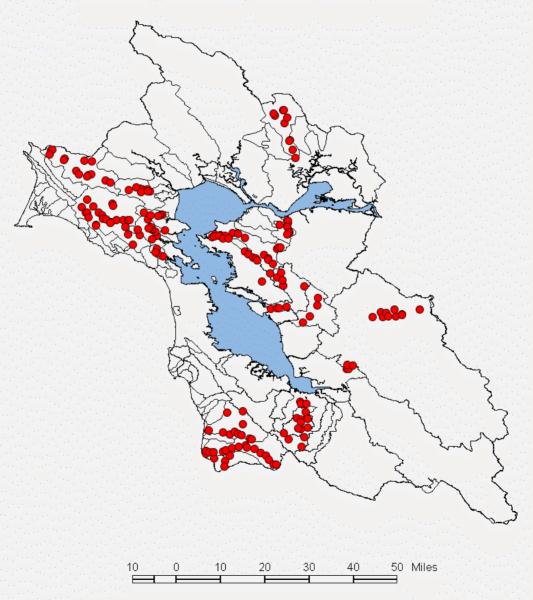
#### Nonprofit Organizations

- Friends of the Napa River
- Sonoma Ecology Center

#### And Others...

#### Bioassessment Sites 2000-2002

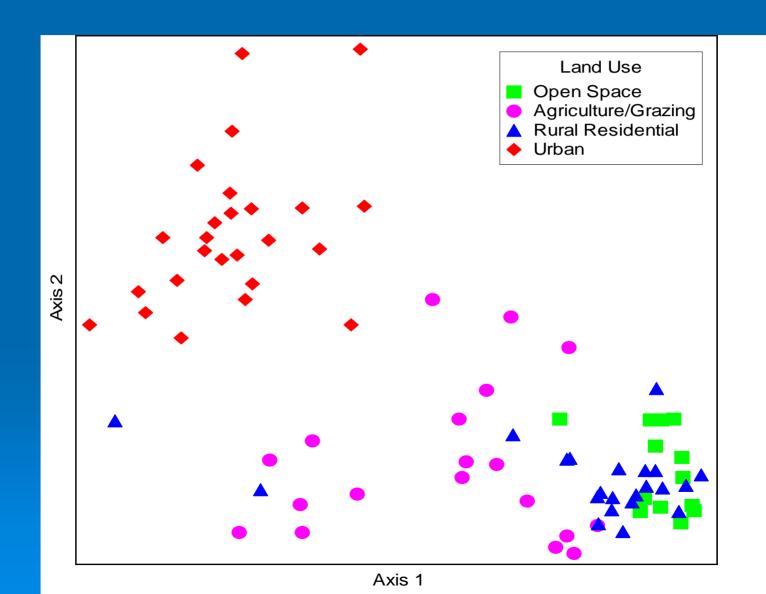
SWAMP, Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin



## **Analytical Methods**

- 2003 CAMLNet STE
- Biological Metrics
- Multivariate statistics
  - Non-metric multidimensional scaling (NMS)
  - Cluster analysis

#### Land Use: Taxa Presence



## Land Use: Metrics (Median Values)

	Open Space	Grazing	Ag	Rural Res.	Urban
Number of Sites	13	10	9	22	25
Taxa Richness	46	28	27	40	13
EPT Taxa	22	14	14	20	2
% Sensitive EPT	35	28	14	36	0
% Oligochaeta	0	3	3	2	21
Tolerance Value	3.6	4.6	5.0	3.8	5.7

## Common Tolerant Taxa



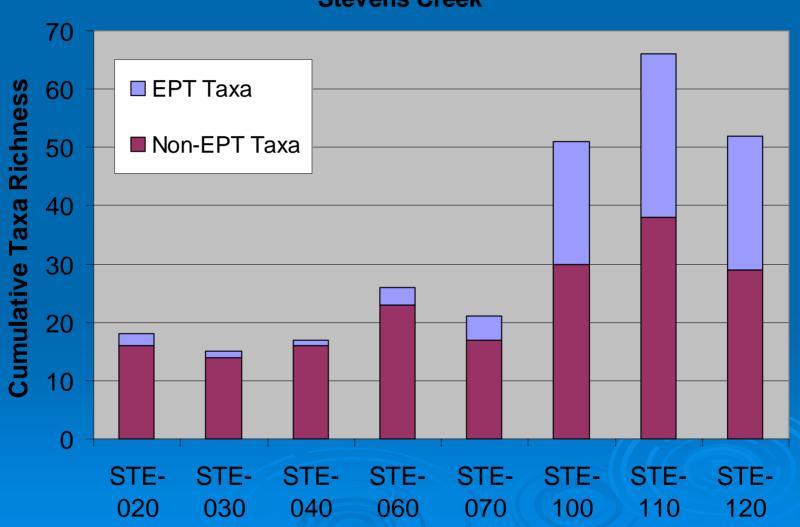




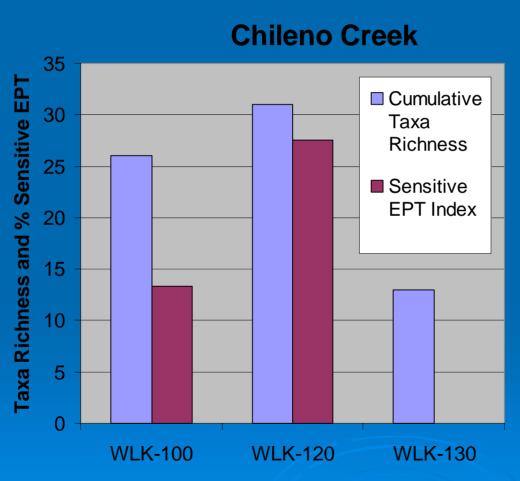


#### Land Use Effects

#### **Stevens Creek**



#### Restoration Effectiveness



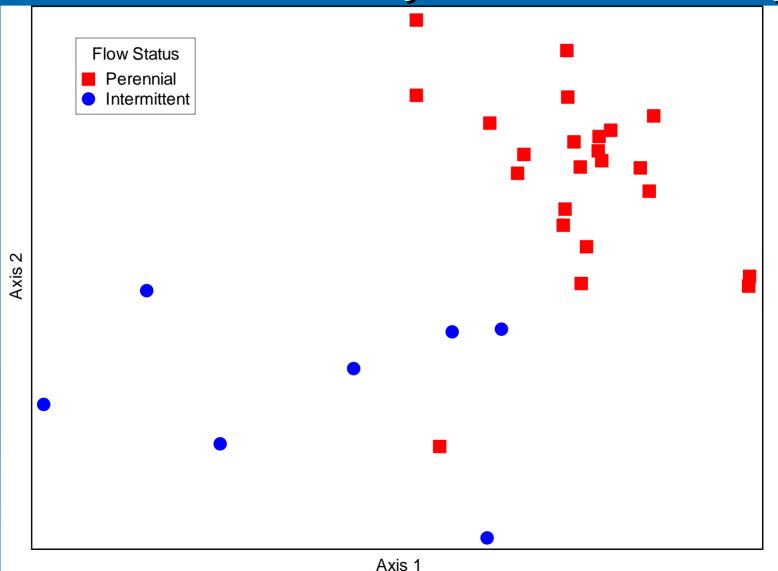




## Natural Variability

- Watershed Annual Precipitation
- Stream Gradient
- Drainage Area
- Flow Intermittency

## Natural Variability: Intermittency



#### Taxonomic Differences





## Natural Variability

	Mean Intermittent	Mean Perennial	T-test
	n = 6	n = 17	Prob. > t
Taxa Richness	32	46	<0.0001
Trichoptera Taxa	4	9	<0.0001
Coleoptera Taxa	2	7	<0.0001
% Sensitive EPT	33	38	0.2364
% Coleoptera	1	12	0.0071

## IBI Development

- Bay Area Macroinvertebrate
  Bioassessment Information Network (BAMBINet)
  - Since 2001
  - Annual Meetings
  - Collaborative Process